

Every Criticism of Judge Lamm, Republican Spellbinders and Republican Newspapers Answered from Records—Democratic and Republican Administrations Compared—All the Facts.

Governor Elliott W. Major, in a speech at the State Fair before an immense throng, in Judge Lamm's home town—Sedalia—answered every criticism of his administration by the Republican candidate for Governor and challenged the judge to meet him in joint debate of the issues of the campaign. Governor Major fully reviewed the work of both the national and state administrations. His masterly defense of Woodrow Wilson's administration was incontrovertible and complete.

Passing from an eloquent review of Wilson's work, he took up the Democratic state administration, fully and fearlessly answered every criticism, and vindicated the Democratic record by a brilliant array of facts. He said in part:

STATE ADMINISTRATION. While the national administration has been busy in the larger things, while its achievements stand out upon the highest mountain tops, we have been busy at home, in looking after the smaller things, and which have been just as vital and important to the citizens of Missouri. The service rendered the commonwealth is to the state what the service rendered by the national administration is to the federal government.

Economy and Efficiency. The Republican politicians and press have worked overtime in undertaking to spread a sentiment that there has been extravagance in the state administration. This statement is without merit and is absolutely false.

The records show every department in the state government has given a greater net return than the same departments ever gave in the same length of time in the past, under any administration, Democratic or Republican. The test is the net return. That is the rule in every financial and industrial concern in America. The fact that we have given a larger net return than was ever given before is the best evidence of the economic handling of the state's affairs. The records must be accepted, and not the cry of uninformed partisan candidates.

This administration receives the highest rate of interest for its public deposits of any state in the Union. When we have secured the highest rate of any state, then the public should be satisfied, and its officials commended. This increased rate was brought about through the enactment of a new administration law passed in 1913, under which we secured interest on the daily deposit at the rate of 3.75 per cent. The last Republican Treasurer was Mr. Gmelch. During his four years as Treasurer of the state he received \$289,477.49 interest on the public funds. His successor, Judge James Cowell, now Democratic state chairman, during his four years received interest on the public funds amounting to \$384,041.14, and which was the best showing to that time.

Treasurer Deal, during the four years of this administration, has received interest on the public funds in the sum of \$540,528.63, which is \$156,497.49 more than Treasurer Cowell and \$251,061.14 more than Treasurer Gmelch. This does not include the interest on the three and one-half millions of dollars for the new capitol. If you include that the interest excess will be \$500,000, as the interest on that one fund alone is \$250,000. Yet this record is without merit in the eyes of the Republican candidates and a Republican partisan press. In order for this splendid showing to have been made, someone in the administration must have been well versed in economic and business affairs.

Legislative Achievements of 1913. In my inaugural address I pledged the people I would bring about constructive and progressive legislation which would insure to the benefit of the state. This promise has been fully redeemed. More remedial, progressive and constructive legislation has been placed upon the statute books during this administration than can be found in any period of 10 years preceding.

In the session of 1913, the first session during my administration, the legislature, among other things, enacted the following:

First—The law creating the Board of Pardons and Paroles, which has labored for good on the human side of life. Under the recommendations of this board, from January, 1913, to September, 1916, I paroled 1,067 convicts from the penitentiary. Out of this large number only 46 paroles have been revoked. In other words, under this law I have been permitted to make citizens out of 1,021 convicts. We have endeavored to reform them and give them another chance in the battle of life. The 1,021 paroled have earned \$600,000 and have given some to their families. The state has been relieved of their support and I have aided in saving my fellow-men who missed the way.

Second—The Public Service Commission, a common forum where any citizen can go and file his simple complaint and without a lawyer have his cause heard, and which commission the servants of the federal government say is among the ablest in America. It has heard 1,033 formal cases and disposed of all submitted but 12. It has heard 1,636 informal cases and has disposed of all but 96. The fees collected by this commission directly, and which flow into the treasury from the Secretary of State by reason of its acts, now amount to \$295,684.15, and the total expense of the commission has been \$388,033.26, or \$10,051.89 less than its earnings. So the fees by reason of the commission's official acts have been more than sufficient to pay the salaries and all the expenses of this great department. In other words, by reason of its official acts more

Over-Appropriations Vetted and Held Up.

The last legislature over-appropriated the revenue something like \$4,000,000. I vetoed and held up more than \$2,000,000 at the time, with the understanding with the various institutions and departments that if the revenue did not increase sufficiently to absorb the balance of the over-appropriation the same would be held up on the 1st of January, 1916, to the end the appropriations would not exceed the revenues for the biennial period. This was done, and the balance of the over-appropriation was held up by me and there is no deficiency and will be no deficiency. An appropriation made by the legislature is not an indebtedness against the state. Any man who is sufficiently intelligent to hold an executive office should know enough to know this. An appropriation is merely an authorized line of state credit. It is the duty of the Governor and other executive officers to see to it that the departments and the institutions over which they have control do not make indebtednesses in excess of the revenue, even though the authorized line of credit is more than the revenue. This duty has been performed and the Republicans are complaining because it was.

New Burdens—Revenue.

Among the new and added burdens placed upon the state during this biennial period the three following items alone total \$600,000, to-wit: bills made during former administrations, and left unpaid, the sum of \$150,000, and which sum we paid last year; pensions to the ex-Confederates, amounting to \$200,000, all of which sum has been paid, and for the rebuilding of the normal school at Warrensburg, \$250,000, the buildings having been destroyed by fire, and part of which sum has been paid.

In these three instances, saying nothing about many others, \$600,000 new burdens have been placed upon the state. Yet the bearing and meeting of these new burdens is of no moment to a partisan Republican or a partisan Republican press.

While these new burdens have been placed upon the state, there has been a falling off in the revenue for the biennial period in one instance, amounting to \$300,000, by reason of the decrease in the number of saloons and by reason of the people voting added dry territory.

Again, in response to the city Democratic and Republican press, and the country Democratic and Republican press, the contract system at the penitentiary was abolished so as to make the loss fall upon one biennial period, instead of two or more biennial periods. The result has been practically a thousand convicts have been idle who heretofore had earned 75 cents a day, save and except their being used by the warden to erect new buildings and improve the grounds. This has been a financial loss of practically \$200,000 for the biennial period.

Thus we find that, while the new burdens have been increased \$600,000 upon the one hand, the revenues in two instances, by reason of popular demand, and without the fault of any officer or department, have decreased \$500,000. Yet this is a matter of no moment to the Republican candidates or to the partisan Republican press. I can say, however, that by splendid management, by good business methods the net increase from all other departments has been sufficient to enable the state to meet these new demands despite said loss for the biennial period from these two departments. In order to have done so, there must have been some good business judgment and management somewhere.

By reason of strict economy and good business foresight, the revenues of the state of Missouri for the years 1915 and 1916, notwithstanding this loss of \$500,000, have been greater than the revenues collected for any biennial period in any preceding administration, Democratic or Republican. So, when the people themselves decrease the revenues \$500,000 for the biennial period and the administration comes back and still has a greater revenue than for any preceding biennial period, then you must admit this could not have been done without some good business management by someone.

Republican Nepotism.

The Republicans talked and wrote about nepotism as though scores of such places could be found in the various departments. Since the nomination of Judge Lamm as their candidate for Governor, and since the only position he had at his disposal when Judge of the Supreme Court was filled by his son, they have run out of type. Since the Republicans discovered that in the city of St. Louis they could find 10 Republican relatives on the payroll to where they could find one Democratic relative on the payroll of the state, they have contracted tongue paralysis.

Public School Legislation and Benefits.

Four progressive school laws were enacted in 1913, and from the official reports we are enabled to take inventory. The first of these new laws provides special state aid for weak rural school districts. Whenever the funds of such districts, plus the public school moneys distributed each year, are insufficient to provide an eight-month school, then, in such event, the state provides the balance, thereby giving and guaranteeing to the boys and girls in every community of the state an opportunity for eight months' school work in each scholastic year. In 1913 we gave this special aid to 1,744 weak rural school districts, apportioning to said districts the sum of \$150,731. In 1914 we gave this special aid to 1,953 districts, apportioning to them \$179,607; in 1915 we gave this special aid to 1,816 districts, apportioning to them \$214,621, and in the present year, 1916, we aid 1,995 and have apportioned to them the sum of \$244,463. Thus in the four years special state aid has been given to 7,508 weak rural school districts, and to which we apportioned \$788,822. By so doing we have given special educational advantages and opportunities to more than 100,000 boys and girls in rural Missouri each year, and who never enjoyed such advantages before. This splendid service, under the new law, reached practically every portion of rural Missouri, because districts were aided in 113 of the 114 counties of the state.

The second new school law provides special state aid for weak town, city or consolidated school districts, organized as village schools, thereby enabling such districts to maintain an approved high school, giving aid ranging from \$200 as a minimum to \$800 as a maximum per annum. Under this law, in 1913, we aided 167 such city schools, apportioning the sum of \$485,194. In 1914 we aided 218 such schools, apportioning to them \$565,502; in 1915 we aided 242 such schools, apportioning to them \$80,478; in the present year, 1916, we aid 265 such schools, apportioning to them the sum of \$37,552. Thus in the four years the state has given special state aid to 892 weak city schools, apportioning to them the sum of \$389,702. This special aid these schools had never received before.

The third new school law provides for the establishment of rural high schools throughout the state, and wherein the state gives special aid in the sum of \$2,000 for the building and equipping of a central high school and from \$300 to \$800 per annum for maintenance. Under this new law, in 1913, 1914, 1915 and 1916, we paid to the rural high schools for maintenance and support and for buildings \$31,671.23, which sum has been paid out of the general revenue fund of the state, and during the present school year, which reaches into 1917, the number of rural high schools will be 110.

The fourth new school law provides for the establishment of a teachers' training course in the high schools of the state, the same to be selected by the State Superintendent of Public Schools. Not more than two can be established in any one county. The state gives special aid in the sum of \$750 per annum, and if there are two in the same county, then the sum of \$1,200 per annum, or \$600 for each school. Under this new law the teachers' training course is now in 29 high schools of the state and more than 2,000 young men and women are taking the course and equipping themselves to do their part in the advancement of the cause of education. In other words, 2,000 young men and women are remaining at home, sleeping under the parental roof tree, breaking bread at the family table and preparing themselves to teach in the public schools of Missouri. We have paid out of the general revenue fund to support this teachers' training course in the high schools the sum of \$156,518.51.

None of this special aid was ever given to the public schools of the state of Missouri under any other administration, but we have done all this, and that without any increase in taxation. There must have been some good business management somewhere in the administration—someone must have practiced economy. We have given this special aid to the public schools of the commonwealth and to its children, and yet this service, in the eyes of the Republican politician and the eyes of the Republican partisan press, means nothing. But the people of the commonwealth, who have received these benefits, stand as living witnesses to a new and unequalled service.

I have given this brief summary of the new school laws, together with the results, to the end that people may know and more fully realize the progressive work done along educational lines by the administration. This record of eloquent facts speaks for itself, and I offer it in evidence as an important achievement of my administration. Is this wasting the public funds?

School Fund. For more than a year the Republican press and Republican orators, including the Republican nominee for Governor, have abused the Democratic administration about a mythical looting of the public school fund, and actually state from the platform that the children of this commonwealth were robbed of a part of their public school moneys in 1915. I am surprised that a man who presents himself as a candidate for Governor upon any ticket should so far forget himself as to utter such false statements.

Present Administration Gives Largest Amount to Public Schools.

Again let the record speak. And when the record is in evidence it belies the loose statements made by the opposition or found in a partisan press. During the years 1903, 1910, 1911 and 1912, being the four years during Gov. Hadley's administration, the public school funds apportioned and paid amounted to \$7,013,158.93. During the years 1913, 1914, 1915 and 1916, the four years of this administration, the public school funds apportioned and paid amount to \$7,709,263.92. Thus we find that during the three years and nine months of this administration we have apportioned and paid to the public schools of the state \$696,104.99 more than was given to them during the four years preceding, and when Hadley was Governor. Not only this, but in each and every year of this administration there was more apportioned and paid to the public schools of the state than was ever apportioned in any other year in the life of Missouri. We have given the best, and no one can equal any one of the four years in any other administration. In other words, we have given the best the state has ever had, and yet the Republican press and Republican campaigners are not satisfied. But do not forget, my friends, that it is impossible for a Democratic administration to please a partisan Republican.

During the same four years, we have also given as special state aid, out of the general revenue fund, to the public schools having the teachers' training course and the rural high schools, the sum of \$248,089.90. Add this sum to the excess of \$696,104.99, and you have the grand total of \$894,194.89. So this administration has given our public schools \$894,194.89 more than was ever given in any administration preceding—Democratic or Republican. With this record, and these absolute facts which can not be contradicted, what have my Republican brethren to say? Some people can not tell the truth, but know the truth when they hear it. Is this what my Republican friends call wasting the public funds?

If there had been any "looting" of the public school fund in the year 1915, how would it have been possible for us to have distributed a larger sum than in any preceding year or administration? In the year 1915, we apportioned and paid to the public schools of the state \$1,967,917.02. This is the largest sum ever apportioned and paid in any year. It is the highest water mark in the State.

Republicans Looted School Fund.

This Republican cry of "looting" the school fund is a farce and is a reflection on either the intelligence or the integrity of those who make the charge. Listen for a moment—I want to give you the record of the Republican party on this subject. That party is the only party which looted and took from the children of the state their public school moneys. In 1893, a Democratic legislature provided by law that one-fourth of the general revenue of the state should be set apart to the credit of the state public school moneys. In 1875, this Democratic law was made a part of the constitution of Missouri by the Democratic party. Every year the Democrats have been in power, this law has been sacredly carried out, until finally when the Democracy was restored to power, it not only gave one-fourth, but gave one-third of the entire revenue to the public schools.

Only once since the enactment of this law, in 1893, has there been any looting of the children's public school moneys. That was during the years from 1861 to 1872—when the Republicans ruled the finances of the state. From 1861 to 1867, no part of the revenue fund was set aside for the school children, notwithstanding the Democratic law of 1863. Every cent of the school moneys was taken, "looted," from the children for seven years and which amounted to \$1,806,478.33. In 1867, the state received from the United States, \$6,372,289.00 for war expenses. Out of this, the Republicans set aside \$1,500,000 to reimburse the school children for the funds looted. This still left, however, \$306,478.33, not counting interest for all the years, restored to the school children and which was never paid to them.

From 1867 to 1872, the receipts into the revenue fund amounted to \$6,978,278.36. One-fourth of this sum, \$1,744,571.99, should have been given to the public school children. The records disclose, however, that the Republicans only gave \$1,163,053.82. Thus, during these five years, the public school funds for the school children were looted of \$581,518.17 by the Republicans. This made a total, from 1861 to 1872, of \$887,987 school funds "looted" by the Republicans and never paid back.

It speaks for itself. Any man, no matter what his politics or religion may be, who will go through it and view it will pronounce it to be the best he has ever seen, and he will so state, even though he has visited every penal institution in the Republic. New walls have been so extended as to double the acreage within the penitentiary, thus giving larger recreation grounds and exercise for the inmates. It also provides sufficient ground for a separate tubercular hospital and a separate chapel for worship, sufficiently large to hold the entire convict population. With the idle convicts, the state has constructed and builded one of the finest little parks that can be found outside of a large city, and that without any financial cost to the state, although it is owned by it. The earnings of the penitentiary during this administration, notwithstanding the loss of the \$200,000 by abolishing the contract system is still \$324,319.95 more than during the Hadley or any other administration.

Increased Amounts Paid State Institutions by Present Democratic Administration.

During the three years and nine months of this administration we have paid the following institutions and departments \$2,536,030.32 more than was paid the same during the entire four years of the administration of Gov. Hadley or any other administration: State Penitentiary, Reform School for Boys, Industrial Home for Girls, Industrial Home for Negro Girls, increase \$ 530,214.44 Bureau of Mines, Bureau of Labor Statistics, increase 17,007.87 Board of Agriculture, Board of Horticulture, State Fair, Poultry Association, Dairies, Fruit Experimental Station, aid to county fairs, etc., increase 220,117.69 State Board of Health, Board of Charities and Corrections, Food and Drug Commissioners, Pensions to Confederate Veterans, increase 258,420.76 Rolla School of Mines, College of Agriculture, university, increase 348,966.84 Improvement of roads and road drag law, increase 1,161,302.72

Total Increase \$2,536,030.32

Thus the records from the Treasurer's office of amounts actually paid disclose that in three years and nine months we have paid to these 20 odd institutions and departments the sum of \$2,536,030.32 more than was paid to the same institutions and departments during any previous period of four years. Again I ask you: Is this wasting the public funds? We might add that the university proper, in the three years and nine months of this administration, has been paid, from the general revenue fund and the collateral inheritance tax fund, \$185,835.20 more than during the entire four years of Gov. Hadley's administration.

While we have paid these large amounts in excess of any other administration, we are not even taking into consideration the amounts that will be paid to the various departments and institutions during the three and one-third months yet remaining in the year. It is unnecessary to consider the payments for the balance of the year, because the achievements already performed are so far eclipsed by others that it is unnecessary to make an estimate. Surely these things could not have been done unless economy were practiced and unless good business methods were used.

These records constitute the just and valid reason for the Democratic state convention, assembled at Jefferson City Aug. 22, 1916, placing the following plank in the platform: "We heartily approve and unreservedly endorse the wise, efficient and capable administration of Gov. Elliott W. Major and our other state officers. At no period in the history of the state have the interests of the people been more conscientiously and effectively safeguarded, and the benefits from this administration will grow and widen with the passing years."

Auditor.

John Gordon, one of the ablest and most efficient auditors the state of Missouri has ever had, for the third time has been nominated for State Auditor. He can win and should win upon his record, although he has been assailed vigorously by these same Republicans who are on the outside and wish to get in. During the years 1913 and 1914 it cost the citizens and taxpayers of the state of Missouri \$71,321.55 less to run the auditing office for those years than it did under the administration of his Republican predecessor for the same length of time.

Secretary of State.

The record of Cornelius Roach, Secretary of State, stands as the ideal in that department. The average of receipts in the office during the years of his predecessor, Mr. Swanger, who was a Republican, was \$187,779.62. The yearly average receipts from the office during Mr. Roach's incumbency have been \$344,740.13. He disposed of the business of his office during his first term of four years for \$77,000 less than the expenses of Swanger, the Republican predecessor, for the same length of time.

This same good showing will go down through all the departments—Insurance, Labor, Factory Inspection, Banking, etc.

Upon this record and service the Democracy of the state presents Hon. Frederick D. Gardner for Governor. He is a man successful in business, a friend to the people and eminently qualified for that high office, and, if elected, will render a service in keeping with the record of his party and the history of the state. The balance of our nominees are clean, able men, with good records as public servants. Upon the national labors we ask the election of all our nominees to Congress and the United States Senate. Each and every one is entitled to the support of the voters of the state and will be elected by the old-time pluralities.

The Democrats in the state and nation pitch their tents on the battle line of tomorrow. We fear not the dawn on the horizon of the new day, for we have builded achievements whose spires will kiss the first rays and, like sentinels, tell the true way to those who follow.

Much has been printed in the Republican papers about the penitentiary. Let me say to you that the penitentiary of Missouri is on a better and higher plane today than it has ever been, and is the equal of any similar institution in the land. The inmates are better clothed, better fed, better provided for and better cared for today than at any other time. We have built, finished and equipped, during my administration, one of the finest penal cell buildings in the world.

Penitentiary.

Eleemosynary and Penal Institutions. The eleemosynary institutions have and are rendering a service to the state in caring for the unfortunate in an efficient degree unattained before. The reform school at Booneville, the Industrial Home for Girls at Chillicothe, stand the equal of any similar institutions in the country. During this administration, we have builded and equipped an Industrial Home for Negro Girls at Tipton, which was another new burden not mentioned.

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